

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR DON KNABE

September 14, 2004

On August 5, 2004, Community and Senior Services (CSS) was notified by the State Department of Community Services and Development (CSD) that \$10,000 of Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) discretionary funds are available to purchase software that would enhance delivery of domestic violence services.

CSS, in collaboration with the Los Angeles County Domestic Violence Council (LACDVC), works with 19 non-profit agencies that operate 23 emergency crisis intervention shelters as a network for the delivery of services countywide. These shelters are solely crisis intervention and house domestic violence victims and their children for a period of 30-60 days. This temporary respite service saves lives.

While cases of domestic violence continue to rise, there is a need on a 24-hour basis to quickly identify shelters that have available bed space. Currently, when a victim calls a shelter and space is not available, the employee of the shelter will call other shelters in Los Angeles County to locate bed space.

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As information on available bed space changes frequently during the day, calling various shelters is very time-consuming and ineffective. The delay in identifying bed space can often contribute to the victim and children having to return to a potentially dangerous living environment.

In order to improve this process, CSS and LACDVC would like to incorporate a network-based technology system that has the ability to monitor the availability of beds in each shelter. The application of technology to monitor the availability of bed space in the shelters would help create greater productivity in providing services to our clients.

**I, THEREFORE, MOVE** that the Board instruct the Chief Deputy of Community and Senior Services – in coordination with the Chief Information Officer to accept the \$10,000 CSBG discretionary funds for the purchase of ALICE software in order to improve the delivery of domestic violence services to this vulnerable population.

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